

Personalities

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After a heated confrontation Monday night on ABC's "Nightline," Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) forcefully lectured National Public Radio reporter Nina Totenberg as she got into a waiting car and held the door as she tried to leave.

"I just wanted to get away from him," Totenberg said yesterday. "All I could think was, I wished my husband were here. . . . The man was not in control."

Simpson said Totenberg repeatedly cursed him, which she did not dispute. "I even raised my hand once because I thought she looked like she was going to strike me," Simpson said. "She was spewing it."

The two had clashed on the air minutes earlier over Totenberg's interview with Anita F. Hill, the law professor who has accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her.

Simpson denied that he shouted at Totenberg as she approached a waiting ABC limousine, but said he was waving a journalistic ethics code and accused Totenberg of having ruined Hill's life by invading her privacy.

"I said, 'Nina, I just want to tell you those things I said were not said lightly. I meant everything I said.' She whirled on me and said, 'You big [expletive]. . . . You are so full of [expletive]. You are an evil man.'"

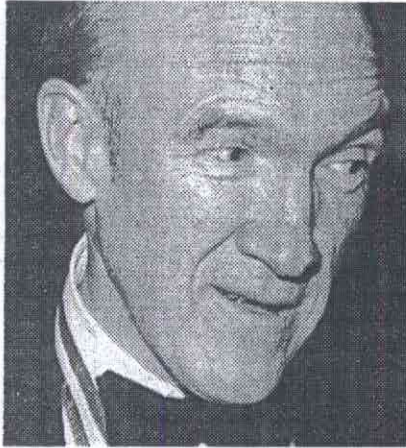
"I said, 'Nina, you love to dish it out, but you sure don't like to take it.'"

When Totenberg tried to have the driver leave, Simpson said, "I said, 'Don't just do your arrogant exit.' She said, 'I don't have to listen to this [expletive]. You're a bitter and evil man and all your colleagues hate you.'"

"It would've made great national television, but there would have had to be a lot of censorship," said Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), an eyewitness.

Jackson's Unlikely Assist

In a visit Monday to his home town of Greenville, S.C., Jesse Jackson said that he is writing the foreword to a new book by James Earl Ray, the man convicted of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr. Jackson agreed to help Ray, he said, because too many questions remain about the 1968 assassination. "I do not



SEN. ALAN SIMPSON

believe he acted alone," said Jackson, who, as an aide to King was at the scene of the sniper attack in Memphis. "The investigations have never gotten to the truth of what happened that day." Ray's book is scheduled to be published in November by American Press Books.

and company they are all close to the word Totenberg used, "out of control." These are people whose everyday lives are of contention and controversy. So why should they give all the signs of being so anxious, worried, that they are out of control? Of the many reasons, they see how they and what they believe in can be hurt and they have to confront the rotten thing Reagan and Bush have done in dredging the intellectual sewers for packing the Court. The Simpsons can wind up paying for it. Meanwhile they have already begun their assault on Hill and one of the GOP senators said quite explicitly that they were going to go after her. I hope they are again as excessive and stupidly natural in their sexism as they have been!

As I indicated earlier they have to worry about whether any other similar allegations will be made. I think that all this attention may rather than scare such women galvanize them into going public. I also believe that this was not any one-shot with Thomas, that if he did it with her for a couple of years it is likely he did it again. This possibility may be what worries the Bushers most. I am sure the hearings will be televised and I look forward to them. Meanwhile, nobody has yet pointed out what is clear in this question, "what kind of investigations does the FBI conduct when they investigated Thomas at least for the circuit and this court and came up with none of this ^{that} ~~where~~ a Senate staffer seems to have lucked into it?" I hope Hill can take severe abuse because it impends.

Dave- as I've indicated in what I've mailed and you will have before you get this, the Thomas supporters immediately the Hill story got attention had much to worry about. I took in some of yesterday's debate, which Pacifica did broadcast, and then saw some of what was on TV. And with that, what is in today's Post on careful reading indicates that all those people, especially the Bush White House, saw their major problem immediately. I did not see Nightline and know nothing about that controversy but from what I saw of Simpson

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